

John Garth House
(Woodside Place)
New London Gravel Road (Rural Route 1)
Hannibal vicinity
Ralls County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1871

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOHN GARTH HOUSE
(Woodside Place)

HABS No. MO-1871

Location: New London Gravel Road (Rural Route 1), Hannibal vicinity,
Ralls County, Missouri

Present Use: Museum and bed-and-breakfast hotel

Significance: "Woodside Place," originally the summer home of the John H.
Garth family, is a locally significant example of the
Second Empire style in Missouri. Garth played a prominent
role in lumber, banking, and other enterprises in Hannibal.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1871
2. Original and subsequent owners:

1871 to 1899: John H. Garth
1899 to 1911: Helen Kerchival Garth (his wife)
1911 to 1941: Mr. and Mrs. Odon S. Rogers
1941 to 1951: Anna M. Woolcock
1951: "the Kilby family"
1952 to 1975: Mrs. Edna Louise Carroll
1975 to 1988: Garth-Woodside Incorporation

Note: At this writing, the house was either recently sold or in
the process of being sold.

B. Historical Context:

The house was built as the Garths' summer residence; the family
maintained another house within Hannibal proper. Garth's business
connections afforded him the financial means to maintain such
houses. At various times he served as president of the Hannibal Lime
Company, the Missouri Guarantee Bank, the Savings and Building
Association of Hannibal, the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank, and the
Garth Lumber Company of Delta County, Michigan. Garth was a
childhood companion of Samuel Clemens, who came to visit at Woodside
Place.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Massing and detail on the Garth house indicate the Second Empire style, of which it is an example. The shape of the house is a typical block with central tower; in this case, the tower's roof slopes differently from the straight edges of the rest of the Mansard roof which surrounds the house. Other decorative detailing, such as the window surrounds and porch, are commonly found in the Second Empire style.
2. Condition of fabric: good

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: approximately 99 feet east-west and 54 feet north-south
2. Foundations: Squared limestone blocks
3. Walls: Wood frame, with clapboard siding
4. Porches: There are four, all of which are roofed. The largest is the front porch, which extends across two-thirds of the east side of the house and then along half of the south side. There is a back porch off the south side of the kitchen, as well as another porch off the north side of the kitchen. The second story has one porch located above the entrance.
5. Chimneys: The house has five brick chimneys, two on the north side, one on the south side, and two on the west side.
6. Doors: The main entry door is on the east side. Each of the above-mentioned porches contains a door to the outside as well, including the second-story porch.
7. Roof: Multi-colored slate on visible slope

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
 - a. Basement: Divided into five rooms by limestone walls; some concrete on floors

- b. First floor: Entry into central hall containing main staircase. On the north side lies a formal parlor, with a dining room behind it. On the south side of the house is the library. Behind the dining room are a servant's room, a kitchen, and a pantry.
 - c. Second floor: The second floor contains four bedrooms off the central hall. Between the bedrooms on the south side of the house is an original bathing room; on the north side, a closet connects the two bedrooms.
 - d. Third floor: On the south side are two bedrooms; on the north side, a ballroom.
- 2. Stairways: The main stairway extends from the front hall of the first floor all the way to the third floor and is made of walnut. Another stairway is located in the servants' quarters at the back of the house, and is not as elaborate.
 - 3. Flooring: On the first floor, it is walnut and cherry. The second and third floors contain wide pine board flooring.
 - 4. Walls and ceiling finish: Surfaces are made of calcium plaster.
 - 5. Doors: All doors and their surrounds throughout the house are painted walnut. Each door has four recessed panels. Double doors lead from the central hall into the front parlor, library, and dining room. Between the dining room and the front parlor are sliding doors.
 - 6. Decorative features: The house has eight fireplaces, seven of which are marble. All are ornamentally carved.

PART III. SOURCES

National Register of Historic Places nomination form, "Garth, John, House," compiled by Jill Rullkoetter, April, 1975.

Telephone conversation with Mr. Archie Hayden, Marion County Historical Society, August 5, 1988.

Prepared by:
Robert Buerglener
HABS
August, 1988

ADDENDUM TO
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